

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. SAR 14951

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-29 remain pending in the application. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 17, 26-27, and 29. The Examiner objected to claims 5, 10, 18-20, and 28, and allowed claims 11-16 and 22-25. By this response, claims 1, 17, and 28 are amended, and claims 10, 18, 26-27, and 29 are cancelled. In view of the above amendments and the following discussion, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims includes subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable in the Final Office Action.

I. Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 10, 18-20, and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner concludes that these claims would be allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter with respect to these claims. First, allowable claim 10 depends from claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 10, which has been cancelled. Claim 1 should now be allowable. Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and should also be allowable.

Second, allowable claim 18 depends from claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claim 18, which has been cancelled. Claim 17 should now be allowable. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17 and should also be allowable. Finally, Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 28 to include the features of base claims 26 and 27, which have been cancelled. Claim 28 should be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 5, 10, 18-20, and 28 be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 6, and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brumitt. (US 5,563,988) (Brumitt). As discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include allowable subject matter from claim 10. As such, claim 1

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should be allowable over Brumitt. Claims 2 and 6 depend from claim 1 and should also be allowable. Claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled and thus the rejection of such claims is moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the present rejection of claims 1-2 and 6 be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 USC § 103

A. Claims 2-4, 6 and 7

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Brumitt in view of Gokturk et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/01699060), (Gokturk). As discussed above, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 2-4, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1 and thus should also be allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the present rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-7 be withdrawn.

B. Claims 8, 9, 17 and 29

Claims 8, 9, 17 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Brumitt in view of Trajkovic et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 20030112132) (Trajkovic). As discussed above, claims 1 and 17 have been amended and should now be allowable. Claims 8-9 depend from claim 1 and should also be allowable. Claim 29 has been cancelled and thus the rejection of claim 29 is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present rejection of claims 8-9 and 17 be withdrawn.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11-16 and 22-25 are allowable.

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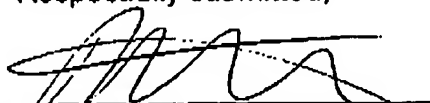
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Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. or Mr. Robert M. Brush, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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